



January 2012

The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter
Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

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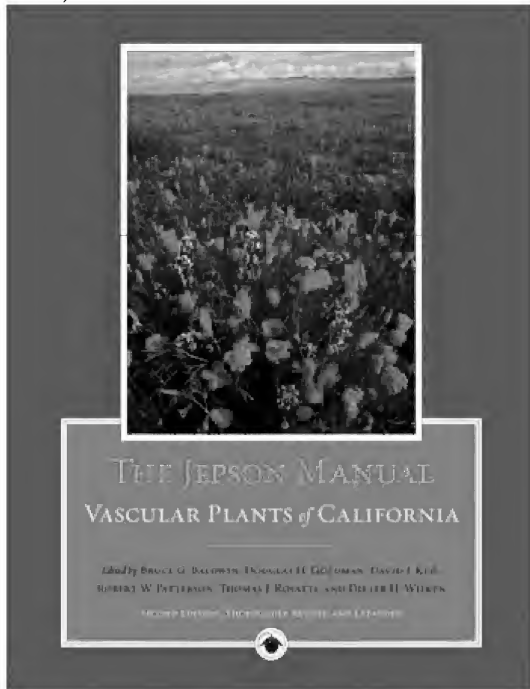
MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN JANUARY

What Does the New *Jepson Manual* Mean for California Floristics?

Speaker: **Bruce Baldwin, Ph.D.**

Wednesday, January 25, 7:30 pm

Location: Auditorium, Orinda Public Library (directions below)



Changes in understanding of California's native and naturalized vascular plants since publication of *The Jepson Manual* (1993) necessitated a complete revision of the book, which is now complete. Implications for the flora extend from higher-level classification (e.g., families) to fine-scale taxonomy (e.g., species). Bruce Baldwin will review some of the more conspicuous changes affecting our plants and provide some perspective on why these changes are important steps forward

for California botany. He also will talk about new initiatives of the Jepson Flora Project and how they will affect the California botanical community.

Bruce Baldwin is Curator of the Jepson Herbarium and Professor of Integrative Biology at U.C. Berkeley. He is Convening Editor of the Jepson Flora Project, including *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California, Second Edition*.

East Bay CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting takes place in the Auditorium of the Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way (in Orinda Village). The Auditorium is on the second floor of the building, accessible by stairs or an elevator. The Auditorium opens at 7:00 pm; the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. After the presentation, we will offer either copies of the new *Jepson Manual* for sale (\$125) or information on how to order it, depending on availability of book copies. Contact Sue Rosenthal, 510-496-6016 or rosacalifornica@earthlink.net, if you have questions.

Directions to Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way:

From the west, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda/Moraga exit. At the end of the off ramp, turn left on Camino Pablo (toward Orinda Village), right on Santa Maria Way (the signal after the BART station and freeway entrance), and left on Orinda Way.

From the east, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda exit. Follow the ramp to Orinda Village. Turn right on Santa Maria way (the first signal) and left on Orinda Way.

Once on Orinda Way, go 1 short block to the parking lot on the southeast side of the two-story building on your right. There is additional free parking beneath the building as well as on the street.

From BART (4 blocks): Exit the Orinda station, turn right and cross a pedestrian bridge, then cross a second pedestrian bridge on the left. Go 1 short block on the sidewalk to the third pedestrian bridge. Go 2 blocks on Orinda Way to the Orinda Library.

NATIVE HERE

Many customers took advantage of our half price specials in November and December.

Having those two-gallon shrubs and five-gallon trees go out and into the ground of your gardens and projects has made room for younger plants to come along, so visit often to see what is being propagated.

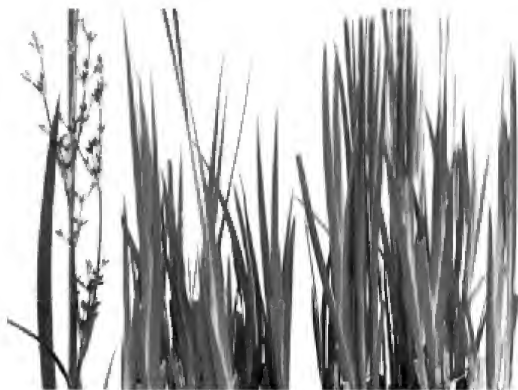
January's half price special is on wetland rushes and sedges. We even have some sedges and rushes that do fine in dry gardens, which will also be half price. This pricing may encourage you to put in a wetland section, or to beef up your drier garden with sedges.

We continue to offer half price on five gallon oaks (*Quercus*) through January, but the supply of trees in other genera is too limited to continue that special.

Nursery hours are Tuesdays—noon to 3 pm, Fridays—nine to noon, and Saturdays—ten to two. From the large lower parking lot, enter the nursery from either the entrance used during the Plant Fair or walk up the steep driveway. Loading and limited parking is available on the upper level.

Anyone interested in leading seed collecting expeditions or doing solitary forays should contact Charli this month so she can include your name on our collection permits for 2012-13. Email nativehere@ebcnps.org.

Volunteers are always welcome during open hours. The nursery needs more volunteers willing to "adopt" a section to keep



Juncus xiphioides, the iris-leaved rush. Picture by Janet Bray, from the 2011-12 edition of the CD *East Bay Native Plants*.

watered and weed free. Once trained in our water conserving practices, volunteers can choose a schedule independent of the open hours. Watering needs are less during the winter, but we can still get dry spells and frost, which dries plants out and damages them if they aren't kept watered. The nursery will again be participating in Bringing Back the Natives spring garden tour, and will need volunteers familiar with the nursery stock to help before and during that weekend.

Margot Cunningham and Charli Danielsen

CONSERVATION ANALYST APPEAL

We still need \$11,000.00 to reach this season's goal and keep our chapter's Conservation Analyst Mack Casterman employed all year. If we fall short, we will lack much of his needed support on the complex matters the EBCNPS Conservation Committee addresses on a continual basis.

Your donation to the East Bay CNPS Conservation Analyst fund at this time is a wonderful way to thank a friend who cares about the environment and California's native plants. You can give a gift in honor of someone, something, a place, or perhaps in memory of a special person or event. Upon your request, we will gladly make mention of the thoughtful thanks, honor or memorial you wish to share with others by printing it in a special column of the *Bay Leaf*.

To read about or follow the work of the EBCNPS Conservation Analyst log on to ebcnps.wordpress.com.

CNPS is a non-profit organization. Your donation is tax deductible.

Please send your check today to the "East Bay Conservation Analyst" and send the check to:

CNPS East Bay Chapter
P.O. Box 5597, Elmwood Station
Berkeley, CA 94705

To ensure that your special mention is noted in the *Bay Leaf*, please contact Carol Castro at 510-352-2382 or carolbcastro@hotmail.com.

If you prefer to donate online, go to ebcnps.org and click on the Paypal button in the left column of the main page.

Recent donors include Carmen Castain, Norman Frank and Kirsten Peck, Justine Hume, Robert Jolda, Maggie Klein, Claire Kremen and Charles Fineman, Christopher Kroll, Linda Newton, Karen Paulsell, Suzanne Skrivanich, Carla Soracco and Christopher Tarp.

Please join me in thanking them for their donations for the 2011-2012 Appeal. Currently, the total amount raised to date is \$24,740. This represents 142 donors (or donor families). Your donation will help close the gap between \$24,740 and \$35,000. Together we can do it.

Carol Castro

CONSERVATION ANALYST REPORT

Tassajara Valley Development

I have been working on two projects recently that fall within our chapter's East Dublin and Tassajara Botanical Priority Protection Areas (BPPA). The first project, ironically named "New Farm" is a proposal for a 771-acre housing development in the Tassajara Valley. This development falls outside of the county's urban limit line and has the potential to set a growth-inducing precedent if approved. I have been working with Save Mt. Diablo and the Greenbelt Alliance to ensure that the glaring environmental issues with this project are understood and the project is not allowed to continue. To date I have submitted a comment letter to the Contra Costa County Planning Department and I have spoken on behalf of EBCNPS at a Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors meeting where several environmental organizations (including Save Mt. Diablo, Greenbelt Alliance, and EBRPD) made comments to show a unified opposition to this project. I am currently working with our allies on building a strategy for the next step, but this is a long-term project and I will provide ongoing updates as it evolves.

Another project in our Tassajara BPPA that I have been following is the proposed Creekside Memorial Cemetery planned just south of the "New Farm" development. Construction of this cemetery would result in development of a 220+- acre site. Over 50 acres of the site would be paved or irrigated, resulting in total loss to the existing natural resources including 2.25 acres of alkali habitat that supports Congdon's tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *congdonii*) and San Joaquin spearscale (*Atriplex joaquiniana*), both CNPS category 1B plants. EBCNPS and other environmental organizations that have commented on this project believe that these impacts could be avoided with a better project design. I have submitted comments to the Contra Costa Planning Department and will continue to update you on new developments.

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, January 8, 2:00 pm, Field trip to Huddart County Park to see Fetid Adder's Tongue. Location: Huddart County Park, 1100 Kings Mountain Road, Woodside (San Mateo County) California. Meet in the parking lot just past the pay station. David Margolies (510-654-0283, 510-393-1858 cell, divaricatum@gmail.net) will lead a hike on the Crystal Springs Trail where fetid adder's tongue *Scoliopus bigelovii* (Liliaceae) blooms in early January. (In most locations outside botanical gardens, it blooms in late January or early February.) This is a gentle trail, losing about 200 feet over about 1/2 mile to the creek. We will walk to the creek and then return the same way. It is unlikely that there will be any other flowers out this early, but the fetid adder's tongue's presence tells us that the new flower season has started. (Other plants out of flower will also be identified.) The area is second growth redwood and mixed evergreen forest.

Oakland Zoo Expansion

Our lawsuit against the City of Oakland and the Oakland Zoo is continuing to move forward. Our petition is scheduled to be heard in court in the second week of January. This week our attorneys filed an amended petition in Alameda County Superior Court charging that the City approved a 50+-acre Oakland Zoo development project for the wildland areas of Knowland Park in violation of the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act. The Act requires that a geotechnical report be prepared and submitted to the state prior to approval of a project located in a mapped seismic hazard zone. While this issue was raised in public comments as early as March 2011, the City Council approved the project without fulfilling this requirement. The failure by the City and the Zoo to complete the proper geotechnical reports before this project was approved provides further evidence that the City is attempting to force this project through without a proper review process, even if that means incomplete review of whether the proposed project would pose danger to the public in the likely event of an earthquake. I will have more to report on this project next month.

The Conservation Committee is always looking for new volunteers to get involved in our many projects. If you are interested in working with me on any of the above projects or any that you have read about on our blog or in past Conservation Analyst Updates, please feel free to contact me by phone at 510-734-0335 or by email at conservation@ebcnps.org. And as always, for more detailed updates on all of our conservation projects, please visit the Conservation Blog at ebcnps.wordpress.com.

Mack Casterman, Conservation Analyst

How to get there: Go to Woodside: cross the Bay Bridge, get on I-280 south and take it to the 84 west/Woodside Road exit. Go west through the town of Woodside. Soon after the main part of the town, take a right onto Kings Mountain Road. The park entrance is on the right after a few miles. Go past the pay station into the main parking lot. We will meet there. Note that you must pay the parking fee even if the station is not staffed (use the envelopes provided). Note: There is poison oak in the park. Poison oak is dangerous even when it has no leaves. Stay on the trail. It will probably be muddy and may be raining. Be prepared. The walk will take place rain or shine.

David Margolies

MEMBERSHIP REPORT



Meet Alma Toroian Raymond

Photo by Sophie Braccini, Staff Writer, *Lamorinda Weekly*. Alma's garden was on the 2011 Bringing Back the Natives Garden tour and featured in the *Lamorinda* paper.

My earliest interest in California native plants came about when I was a biology major at UC Berkeley in the early 1960s. I made many trips to the UC garden and also to the Regional Parks Botanic Garden. Those places were peaceful and calming refuges from the hectic Berkeley campus. The CNPS office was in a small building in the EBRPBG in those days, but the meetings were held in Berkeley near campus. I remember attending a few CNPS meetings in a dark Maybeck building and seeing G. Ledyard Stebbins there.

Berkeley was in quite an uproar during the late years of the '60s. It became increasingly difficult for me to concentrate on my studies. Friends were being drafted into the US Army and going off to Vietnam. Of course there was the famous protest taking place in Sproul Plaza. At some point I left Berkeley with a note from the Dean of Women stating that I had left in good standing and could return to resume my studies. I went back to Selma, my hometown, and enrolled at Fresno State. That was where I had my most influential experience with California native plants under the tutelage of Dr. John Weiler.

I took Dr. Weiler's taxonomy of flowering plants class at Fresno State College. He led a field trip every week. We followed the Spring bloom as it moved to higher elevations culminating in the High Sierra. This is when I learned the plant families, how to key species, collect and preserve specimens and how to keep records of everything we collected. I still have my plant collection and notes somewhere in my house. I was born and grew up in the Central Valley, but was not aware that such natural botanical beauty was nearby until I took that class with Dr. Weiler.

I married Douglas William Raymond, a Berkeley engineer, in 1965. In 1967 we threw up our hands in the face of increas-

ing street protests and joined the Peace Corps. Doug was not drafted due to a vision problem in one eye. It seemed like everyone our age was being drafted or running to Canada to avoid the draft. We joined the Peace Corps and went to teach in Ethiopia for two years.

We started a family after our return from Ethiopia and moved from Berkeley to Orinda in 1978 with our young daughter and son. I retired recently from many years of working in the field of neurosciences as a lab assistant and later a lab manager at Berkeley, UCSF, Stanford and Genentech.

After retirement I renewed my interest in native plants. I noticed that there were tours, classes to take and native plant nurseries. So I had a go at converting my yard. It has been several years now. My front garden was on the Bringing Back the Natives tour last year. Things are constantly changing in the garden and I love the serenity of working out there.

I still go to the botanic garden in Tilden Park on a regular basis as a member of the Seedy Friends volunteers. I have other interests such as ukulele playing, singing with the UC Alumni Chorus, helping with our grandchildren and corresponding by email with former students from our Peace Corps days.

So far, life has been good to us. Can't ask for more.

Alma Raymond

Please join us in welcoming our new members who joined in November and December: Brian Anacker, Fred Booker, Darrell Boyle, Margery Erikson, Lisa Gorrell, Shellie Jacobson, Dan Johnson, Teresa Noble, Cassie Ohms, Krehe Ritter, & Jane VanSusteren.

As always, a huge thank you to our renewing members.

Reminders

- Still looking for join dates prior to 1986
- Outreach Coordinator position still vacant
- Restoration Chair, vacant
- Be sure and visit our updated membership page at <http://ebcnps.org/index.php/membership>

Elaine Jackson

RESTORATION PROJECTS

First Saturday of each month at Pt. Isabel on the Bay Trail, 10 am to 2 pm. We remove invasive plants and re-vegetate with native plants grown from plants found at the site. We are located at the end of Rydin Road just off the I-580 next to Hoffman Marsh. Contact info: e-mail: kyotousa@sbcglobal.net, cell: 510-684-6484

Saturday, January 7, 9:00 am, Redwood Regional Park

This group meets at the Skyline Gate entrance to remove French broom along East Ridge trail, and nearby areas. Tools and gloves can be provided — just show up.

Saturday, January 14, 9:30 am, Huckleberry Regional Park

Meet at the main parking lot, where we will decide on a worksite and invasive plants to remove. There will be French broom sprouts, but there is also cape ivy and *Vinca* to pull and bag. If you need loaner gloves or tools, please e-mail jmanley@ebparks.org or janetgawthrop47@gmail.com.

Sunday, January 22, 9:00 am, Sibley Regional Park

We will meet again at the entrance on the Oakland side of the park, located off of Skyline about a half mile north of Huckleberry Park. Depending on the weather and trail conditions, we may work near the entrance or further inside the park to remove French broom. If you need loaner gloves or tools, please send an e-mail request as directed in the Huckleberry announcement.

Past Work Party at Pt. Isabel

An eight person volunteer crew took extra care while planting at Pt. Isabel in windy conditions on December 3rd. We had to ensure the ground was properly prepared and ready for planting the moment we exposed the roots to the air. Working quickly, and hanging onto our hats, we planted seven bee plants (*Scrophularia californica*) four purple needle grass (*Nassella pulchra*), three sage brush (*Artemisia californica*), one quail bush (*Atriplex lentiformis*), and a California-fuchsia (*Epilobium canum*). Volunteers also removed radish sprouts and the ever emerging oxalis on the lower bank while the upper bank remains free of weeds thanks to the mulch that we



A volunteer plants a Bee Plant (*Scrophularia californica*) at Point Isabel. Photo by Jane Kelley.

have spread. We checked on the new plantings on December 9 and they are all thriving. Bruce Adams from the EBRPD brought us all the tools we needed and complimented the crew on the work achieved so far. Passersby continue to stop and ask questions about the project. We much appreciate the consistent support provided by Scott Possin, Bruce, and their colleagues from the EBRPD.

Jane and Tom Kelley

PLANT FAIR 2011 (MORE ON PAGE 7)



FLOWERS ON THE SERPENTINE PRAIRIE



Photos of flowers at the Serpentine Prairie in Redwood Regional Park by Bill Hunt. The Conservation Committee of EBCNPS has played an important role in preserving the Prairie. Note the Presidio clarkia (*Clarkia Francisana*) (top left), hayfield tarweed (*Hemizonia congesta* ssp. *luzufolia*) (top right) the *Calochortus luteus* (middle left), a *Brodiaea*, middle right, another *C. luteus*, lower left. and an unidentified white flower, lower right.

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Nicole Jurjovic, Co-Chair
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EBCNPS Sponsored Activities

Native Here Nursery

510-549-0211
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nativehere@ebcnps.org
Sales—Margot Cunningham
bunchgrassmarg@gmail.com

Plant Fair

Charli Daniels, Chair
510-549-0211
nativehere@ebcnps.org

Lesley Hunt, Native Here/
Plant Fair-East Bay
Chapter Board liaison
925-937-6791
ldhunt@astound.net

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Huckleberry—Janet
Gawthrop
Point Isabel—Tom and
Jane Kelly
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510-684-6484 (c)
kyotousa@sbcglobal.net
Strawberry Creek—Tom
and Jane Kelly

Officers and Committee Chairs serve on the Board.

MORE PHOTOS OF THE 2011 PLANT FAIR



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East Bay Chapter
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January 2012 issue

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wayne Roderick Lectures, winter 2012, at the East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Wildcat Canyon Road and South Park Drive (South Park Drive is closed November-March) in Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley, CA 510-544-3169, bgarden@ebparks.org, www.ebparks.org/parks/vc/botanic_garden, www.nativeplants.org, Saturday Mornings 10:30, Free. Seating is limited. To be sure of a seat, come early and save a chair

Jan. 7 Wildflower hunting in Voyageurs National Park, and Isle Royale National Park in Lake Superior - Bob Case

Jan. 14 East of the Range of Light - Steve Edwards & Mike Uhler

Jan. 21 Natural history of Switzerland - Ron Felzer

Jan. 28 Crown Jewel of our parks: botany and geology of Sunol-Ohlone Regional Wilderness - Steve Edwards

Restoration (see page 5)

Saturday, January 7, 10 am, Point Isabel

Saturday, January 7, 9 am, Redwood Regional Park, Skyline Gate

Saturday, January 14, 9:30 am, Huckleberry Regional Park
Sunday, January 22, 9:00 am, Sibley Regional Park

Field Trips (see page 3)

Sunday, January 8, 2:00 pm, Huddart County Park, Woodside, San Mateo County

Membership Meeting (see page 1)

Wednesday, January 25 7:30 pm, "What Does the New Jepson Manual Mean for California Floristics?"

Speaker: Bruce Baldwin of the Jepson Herbarium. Orinda Public Library, Orinda CA

Native Here (see page 2)

Tuesday afternoons—nursery open noon to 3 pm

Friday mornings—nursery open 9 am to noon

Saturdays—nursery open 10 am to 2 pm

Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

I wish to affiliate with:

___ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

___ Other _____

Membership category:

___ Individual, \$45

___ Family, Library, Group or International, \$75

___ Plant lover, \$100

___ Patron, \$300

___ Benefactor, \$600

___ Mariposa Lily, \$1500

___ Limited Income or student, \$25.00

___ Other _____

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento CA 95816